

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02122 240923Z  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
ACDA-07 EB-08 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 /136 W  
-----240929 024741 /15

P R 240803Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9485  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2122

E.O; 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU, NI  
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING,  
LOME, FEB. 22-26

REF: STATE 032906

1. NIGERIANS EXPECTED LOME OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING TO CONCENTRATE ON BUDGET AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS CURRENTLY CONCERNING THE CONTINENT, HOWEVER, OFFICIALS DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER SUBJECTS MIGHT BE RAISED. VISITING ZAPU OFFICIALS TOLD POLCOUNS FEBRUARY 22 THAT THEY HAD EXPECTED BUDGET, ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO BE AGENDA ITEMS AT THIS SESSION. THEIR COMMENT, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH FMG, WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM OUR OWN IMPRESSION OF NIGERIAN VIEW.

2; ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, FMG IS PRESENTLY CONCENTRATING ON ZIMBABWE AND QUESTION OF RECOGNITION PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF). WHILE HOLDING BACK FROM GIVING EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO THE PF, FMG HAS SINCE LUSAKA ALC MEETING SEEMED TO BE MOVING TOWARD THAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02122 240923Z

POSITION. FMG STILL INSISTING, HOWEVER, THAT ALL LIBERATION GROUPS BE INCLUDED WITHIN THAT ORGANIZATION. THAT FMG IS NOT YET WILLING PUT ALL ITS EGGS IN ONE BASKET APPEARED TO BE BORNE OUT GBY COMMENT OF ZAPU REPRESENTATIVE WPO SAID THAT FMG'S POSITION HAD IMPROVED IN "RECENT" TIMES BUT CHARACTERIZED PRESENT NIGERIAN STANCE WITH QUALIFICATION " FAIRLY SATISFACTORY." PRIMARY NIGERIAN CONCERN AT LOME WILL PROBABLY BE TO AVOID ANOTHER

SPLIT IN OAU RANKS BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF DIFFERENT LIBERATION GROUPS SUCH AS DIVIDED OAU IN ANGOLAN CASE. ON NAMIBIA, FMG WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS OF MOVING THAT COUNTRY TOWARD EARLY INDEPENDENCE UNDER SWAPO-LED GOVERNMENT.

3. NIGERIANS EXPECT MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION FROM NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. THEY WILL EXPECT US TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT INDEPENDENCE WITH MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA AND VISIBLE POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY EXPECT SOME SIGN THAT U.S. ACTION WILL FOLLOW THE WELCOME WORDS THEY HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM CARTER ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN. FOR EXAMPLE, BYRD AMENDMENT REPEAL WOULD BE HELPFUL. AT SAME TIME, OBASANJO/GARBA STATEMENTS DURING RECENT YOUNG VISIT DEMONSTRATED THAT NIGERIANS ARE WILLING GIVE US SOME FLEXIBILITY IN WAYS WE ATTEMPT BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED CHANGES. FOR EXAMPLE, NEGOTIATIONS WITH WHITE REGIMES ARE NOT DISMISSED PER SE, BUT NIGERIANS INSIST TALKS WILL SUCCEED ONLY IF LIBERATION WAR KEEPS UP THE PRESSURE ON THE MINORITY REGIMES. NIGERIAN CRITICISM OF U.S.; AT LOME ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE MUTED, PARTICULARLY IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION, WITH OTHER MEMBERS.

4. IF WESTERN SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI ISSUES ARE RAISED AT LOME, NIGERIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO HOLD FIRM TO ITS SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE SELF-DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, NIGERIANS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ALGERIA ON THE ONE HAND AND MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA ON THE OTHER. FMG MAY SEEK WAYS TO AVOID SHOWDOWN WHICH SUMMIT MEETING ON SAHARA WOULD INVOLVE. THIS NIGERIAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02122 240923Z

RELUCTANCE EXACERBATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OAU MEMBER STATES IN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ALSO REFLECTED IN FMG'S DESIRE AVOID THE CHOICE BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA IN CURRENT TROUBLE THERE (LAGOS 1971). NEVERTHELESS, NIGERIA SHOULD HOLD FIRM TO ITS SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OAU MEMBER STATES.

5. REPORTED ARAB SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN SPEARATIST MAY IN PART BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT NIGERIAN EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH STATE OF ARAB-AFRICAN RELATIONS (LAGOS 2059). WHILE NIGERIA CONTINUES SUPPORT WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB OCCUPIED LANDS AND IS CRITICAL OF ISRAELI COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA (LAGOS 1746), FAILURE OF ARABS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CONTINUES TO RUB LAGOS THE WRONG WAY. ADDITIONALLY, GROWING PRESSURES FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FROM NIGERIA FROM AFRICAN STATES FEELING PINCH OF INCREASED OIL PRICES MAY ALSO BE CAUSING SOME FMG UNHAPPINESS OVER ALLEGED PALTRY EXTENT ARAB ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SHOULD THIS SUBJECT ARISE AT LOME, NIGERIA

CAN BE EXPECTED PRESSURE ARABS BACK THEIR PROTESTATIONS OF  
UNITY WITH BLACK AFRICA WITH CONCRETE ASSISTANCE.

6. ON KOREA, NIGERIANS HAVE MADE THEIR POSITION QUITE CLEAR.  
UNTIL FOREIGN TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH KOREA,  
FMG WILL NOT DINSIDER THE CASE FOR RECOGNITION OF ROK. MEANWHILE,  
NIGERIA WULL EXPAND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH DPRK.

7. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, NIGERIANS WILL CONTINUE CRITICIZE WHAT  
THEY PERCEIVE TO BE UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE OF WESTERN POWERS IN CIEC  
AND ON ENTIRE RANGE OF ISSUES UNDER RUBRIC OF NORTH-  
SOUTH DIALOGUE. NIGERIA WAS IN FOREFRONT OUR CRITICS AT OAU  
ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KINSHASA.

8. ON LOS, WE MAY FIND OUT IN LOME WHETHER OR NOT NIGERIA WILL  
HOST A PRE-LOS SESSION OAU MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. FORMER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL IBEKWE MENTIONED SUCH A POSSIBILITY FOLLOWING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02122 240923Z

LAST YEAR'S LOS SESSION BUT AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY 10, MEA  
OFFICIALS DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT FMG PLANNING SERVE AS  
SITE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

9. IF CUBA/ANGOLA IS DISCUSSED, GARBA MAY WELL ENDEAVOR ASSUME  
ROLE OF LATEST SOURCE OF ALL WISDOM ON THIS SUBJECT, GIVEN  
RECENT FMG MEETINGS WITH NETO DURING FESTAC DURBAR CELEBRATIONS  
TWO WEEKS AGO. HE MAY REITERATE NIGERIA'S WILLINGNESS SERVE  
AS GO-BETWEEN IN ATTEMPT BRING NETO AND MOBUTU CLOSER  
TOGETHER, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK WAYS OF REDUCING MPLA  
RELIANCE ON CUBAN MILITARY. IN THIS CONNECTION FMG BELIEVES  
THAT SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES ASSIST UNITA AND THAT U.S. SHOULD  
APPLY PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO CEASE AND DESIST.  
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LAGOS02122  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770064-0017  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770214/aaaaamcq.tel  
**Line Count:** 153  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3a6cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 32906  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3243138  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, LOME, FEB. 22-26  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, NI, OAU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3a6cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009